

III.—*Additional Notes on the Birds of Fokkien.*

By C. B. RICKETT*.

THE places mentioned in these notes are situated as follows :—

San Tu Kao and *Kieh Ning Fu*.—Situating on the Min river, in a N.W. direction from Foochow, from which they are distant respectively about 90 and 180 miles.

Ching Fung Ling.—On the hills 100 miles north-west of Foochow. See 'Ibis,' 1897, p. 600.

Yamakan and *Ah Ch'ung*.—Respectively about 7 and 14 miles from Ching Fung Ling. *Yamakan* (Wild Cat Valley) stands at about the same elevation as Ching Fung Ling. *Ah Ch'ung* I have not as yet visited. I gave the name on a previous occasion (see Bull. B. O. C. viii. p. xlvii; *Ibis*, 1899, p. 444) as *Hachong*, but have since been told that *Ah Ch'ung* is the more correct rendering.

1. *MERULA NAUMANNI* (Temm.).

I saw three Thrushes at Ching Fung in December which I believe were of this species, but they were too wary to allow of approach.

It is a curious fact that this bird, which used to be so common about Foochow on passage some years ago (*vide* 'Ibis,' 1887, p. 216), no longer passes through this district. I have never seen a single specimen in the eight years I have collected round about here.

2. *SUTHORA DAVIDIANA* Slater, *Ibis*, 1897, p. 172, pl. iv. fig. 1.

In December 1897 Styan and I came across a flock just outside San Tu Kao. We subsequently found them not uncommon about Ching Fung. In winter they are always in flocks, some of which consist of a considerable number of individuals. They are very active little birds, travelling through the underwood at a great pace, at times ascending to the tree-tops, and uttering a constant faint "chu, see, see, sec." The stomachs of some that I examined contained vegetable matter and small larvæ.

* See the last communication by Messrs. Rickett and La Touche, *Ibis*, 1898, p. 328.

The soft parts of several, as noted by Styan, were as follows:—Irides crimson; legs purplish brown; bill white, lilac at the base.

Thirteen specimens averaged in the flesh:—Length 3·47 inches, wing 1·96, tail 1·5, tarsus 0·65, culmen 0·35.

3. PARADOXORNIS GULARIS Gray.

I saw a good many large flocks of this species about Ching Fung and Yamakan last year. They were *everywhere*, from the tops of the highest trees down to the thick scrub, and occasionally on the ground. Their way of picking off a bud, carrying it to a convenient twig, and holding it under their feet while picking it to pieces, is very Tit-like. Some that I examined had fed on vegetable matter and insects. One had an immense number of small white grubs in its stomach, and another fragments of chestnuts.

Styan noted the soft parts of some that we shot in the previous year as follows:—Bill orange; irides brown; legs bluish green.

4. ERITHACUS AKAHIGE (Temm.): Rick. & La Touche, Ibis, 1897, p. 608.

Since my last notes were written I have obtained six specimens—three from Kuatun in November, and the other three from about Yamakan in December and January. One or two others were seen, but in dense underwood and at too close quarters to be shot at. My collector says this species is much less shy and wary than *E. sibilans*.

5. CETTIA SINENSIS La Touche, Ibis, 1898, pp. 328, 329.

I have now nearly 50 specimens of this species from various parts of this province, chiefly Kuatun and around Ching Fung.

When undisturbed it is a very tame little bird, hopping quietly from twig to twig within a few feet of one, and uttering a low “tack, tack,” as it diligently searches for its minute insect prey. On the least suspicion of danger it disappears into the shelter of the thick cover it loves to frequent. I have made the following (average) flesh-measurements:—Four ♂: length 5·1 inches, wing 2·1, tail 2·1,

tarsus 0·9. Three ♀ : length 4·6 inches, wing 1·98, tail 1·8, tarsus 0·8.

6. *LUSCINIOLA FUSCATA* (Blyth).

It is this species, and *not Lusciniola schwarzi*, that winters at Foochow (*vide* Ibis, 1896, p. 493). The last-named is apparently a very rare bird in this province, while *L. fuscata* is common. It frequents hedges and bushes near water, and has a quiet Cettia-like way of slipping through the cover, uttering a low "chack, chack," at intervals. It often descends to the ground to pick up food. One shot last winter was hopping about on the mud at the edge of a small creek. Its stomach contained ants, minute coleoptera, some small larvæ, and two or three tiny univalve shells.

7. *NILTAVA SUNDARA* Hodgson.

My collector shot a female of this species on 3rd November, 1898, at Kuatun.

8. *POLIOMYIAS LUTEOLA* (Pall.).

What La Touche says of the rarity of this species near Foochow (Ibis, 1899, p. 422) is so true that I may note that I shot a male in immature plumage in November last. It measured in the flesh :—Length 5 inches, wing 2·9, tail 2·0, tarsus 0·6, culmen 0·3.

9. *MELANOCHLORA SULTANEA* (Hodgs.).

We obtained a dozen specimens at and around Yamakan in December and January. The natives say this species breeds there in holes of trees.

The stomachs of those I examined contained vegetable matter (? berries), seeds, and insects. I once heard the bird's loud and somewhat peculiar note at Yamakan. The following are average flesh-measurements :—Two ♂ : length 8·1 inches, wing 4·3, tail 3·9, tarsus 0·9. Three ♀ : length 7·75 inches, wing 3·95, tail 3·6, tarsus 0·9.

10. *CHLOROPSIS LAZULINA* Swinhoc.

Styan and I met with this species near Ching Fung in December 1897. In the same month the year following and February this year my collectors shot seven specimens at

Yamakan and Ah Ch'ung. Two that I examined had fed on berries and flies. The latter (judging from our notes of the previous year) appear to be their favourite food. The following are average flesh-measurements of five specimens (three males and two females):—Length 7·6 inches, wing 3·8, tail 3·2, tarsus 0·75, culmen 0·7.

The soft parts were:—Irides and bill black; tarsus bluish grey.

11. *ORIOLOUS INDICUS* Jerdon.

A few stragglers appear to stay through the winter in South China. La Touche records one at Swatow in January (Ibis, 1892, p. 422), and I saw a fine male near Foochow on 26th December.

12. *ÆTHOPYGA LATOUCHII* Slater, Ibis, 1891, p. 43, pl. i.

This species was recorded as occurring at Ching Fung in 'Ibis,' 1897, p. 603. Since then I have received a good many specimens from that neighbourhood, and also from a place on the river only about 50 miles from Foochow.

I had a good view of a beautiful male last winter. He was perched on the branch of a small tree within 6 or 8 feet of my face, and looked a pretty sight with the sun shining full on him as he sat eyeing me suspiciously and uttering a constant faint chirp. On my making a slight movement he darted across the narrow path into the forest with a single sharp note of alarm.

A pair measured in the flesh:—♂. Length 4·3 inches, wing 2, tail 1·9, tarsus 0·5. ♀. Length 3·8 inches, wing 1·85, tail 1·0, tarsus 0·4.

13. *LEPOCESTES SINENSIS* Rickett, Bull. B. O. C. vi. p. 1; Ibis, 1897, p. 603.

Although only two specimens were actually obtained in December 1898 in the neighbourhood of Ching Fung, this might almost have been called the common Woodpecker of the district. Its constantly uttered "tirric, tirric, tirric," mingled with the tapping of its bill and the loud flutter of its wings, was often to be heard in the low scrub and bamboos on the hillsides, as well as (though less frequently) in the

forest trees. They were usually in twos or threes, but now and again a solitary individual was met with. When suspicious of danger they instantly become silent and steal quietly away. One I examined had fed on insects and small larvæ; another had in its stomach a huge white grub some 2 inches in length.

On 21st February my man shot a female at Yamakan, which he says he is sure (from the appearance of the organs) had already laid!

Two males in the flesh were 11·75 inches in length. Three females were 11·2, 11·2, and 11·4 inches.

14. *GEINULUS VIRIDANUS* Slater, *Ibis*, 1897, p. 176.

Much less common about Ching Fung than the last. I heard its note on one occasion, and one of my men came across three in a small wood of pines and shot one of them. The note is much shorter than that of *Lepocestes sinensis*, and sounds like "kwek, kwek."

A pair in the flesh measured:—♂. Length 11·0 inches, wing 5·2, culmen 1·0. ♀. Length 10·6 inches, wing 5·1, culmen 1·0.

My collectors shot six at Kuantun in the autumn of 1898.

15. *DENDROCOPUS INSULARIS* Gould, *Ibis*, 1897, p. 176; 1898, p. 333.

Recorded in error as *D. subcirris* in *Ibis*, 1897, p. 602.

My men obtained four specimens from Kuantun last autumn. We have not as yet received this bird from the Ching Fung district.

16. *HARPACTES YAMAKANENSIS* Rickett, *Bull. B. O. C.* viii. p. xlviii; *Ibis*, 1899, p. 444.

Three specimens of this Trogon were obtained at Yamakan in December 1898. I did not see them in a living state, so know nothing of their habits or notes.

A pair I handled in the flesh measured as follows:—♂. Length 13·8 inches, wing 6·0, tarsus 0·8. ♀. Length 14·0 inches, wing 5·9, tarsus 0·8.

They had fed on berries; the stomach of the female also contained a few insect-remains.

17. *SYRNIUM INDRANI* (Sykes): Blauf. Fauna B. I., Birds, iii. p. 275.

I received a specimen (♂) from Ah Ch'ung, shot on 24th February. This and Styan's specimen from Chinteh (Anhui Province) (Ibis, 1899, p. 289) are, I think, the only recorded instances of its occurrence in China proper. It was obtained by Swinhoe in Formosa. My bird measures *in the skin*:—Length 20·2 inches, wing 14·8, tarsus 2·5.

18. *STRIX CANDIDA* Tickell, Ibis, 1894, p. 222.

It was not till the end of June 1898 that I was able to get a second specimen of this Owl. It was a female, caught alive in a building a few miles from Foochow. It measured *in the flesh*:—Length 14 inches, wing 13·4, tail 5·5, tarsus 3·0.

19. *GLAUCIDIUM BRODIEI* (Burton).

I have one from Ching Fung, shot on 1st January.

20. *SCOPS GLABRIPES* Swinhoe.

Dr. Stenhouse (H.M.S. 'Algerine') has kindly presented La Touche and me each with an egg of this species, which he took from a rather curious site, viz. a Magpie's nest! He shot the bird as it flew out, and on getting up to the nest found three fresh eggs.

Eurystomus calonyx Sharpe constantly—in fact, so far as my knowledge goes, *invariably*—makes use of old Magpies' nests round about Foochow, although there are plenty of trees with holes suitable for nesting purposes.

21. *SPILORNIS CHEELA* (Latham).

We obtained two specimens at Yamakan last winter and saw several others, but they were too wary to allow of approach. It is apparently *the* Eagle of the district.

On 17th April my men took a nestling near Ching Fung. It was just a ball of fluffy white down, and the sole occupant of a nest which was described as being no bigger than a Kite's (*Milvus melanotis*). It was placed in a high tree, and composed of sticks lined with pine-needles. One of the parents made a swoop at the boy when he was near the nest, and very nearly struck him on the head. As it circled round

for another stoop, one of the men fired. The bird thereupon flew to a tree some little way off, where it was joined by its mate; the pair made a great outcry, but did not approach the nest again. The natives say that these Eagles are very destructive to their fowls and ducks.

An adult ♂, shot in December, measured in the flesh:—Length 27 inches, wing 18·5, tail 12, tarsus 3·6, culmen (from cere) 1·3. Its crop contained a small snake.

22. HALIASTUR INDUS (Bodd.).

La Touche obtained a specimen once in August (Ibis, 1887, p. 234). I never came across the species till my man shot a female in July 1898, and a male in the following May.

It is strange that it should be so rare a straggler here, as Styan states that it comes to breed in small numbers at Kiukiang (Ibis, 1891, p. 490). David also notes it as breeding in Kiang-si.

23. ANSER CYGNOIDES Pall.

La Touche (Ibis, 1892, p. 491) mentions the probable occurrence of this Goose at Foochow. Last November I received the heads and necks of two shot at Sam-sha Bay (an inlet a few miles to the north of the mouth of the Min). One of these has a broad whitish band round the base of the upper mandible, the other has no trace of such a band.

24. ANSER ALBIFRONS Scop.

I have two specimens, shot in October and November. The latter (♂) measured in the flesh:—Length 26 inches, wing 16, tail 6, tarsus 2·4, culmen 1·9.

With the exception of *Anser segetum*, Geese are very uncommon about Foochow.

25. DENDROCYGNA JAVANICA (Horsf.).

I recorded a specimen obtained here in 'Ibis,' 1894, p. 225. It was apparently (from its dull colouring) an immature bird. Last November a fine bright-plumaged male was shot near the mouth of the river. It measured in the flesh:—Length 16·5 inches, wing 7·5, tail 2·5, tarsus 1·8, culmen 1·6.

26. *PHASIANUS ELLIOTI* Swinhoe.

La Touche obtained a specimen at Kuatun. Last winter my man saw the dried body of one in a native house at or near Yamakan. The owner told him it came from Kieh Ning Fu, where, according to him, it is not uncommon.

27. *GENNÆUS NYCTHEMERUS* (Linn.).

Silver Pheasants appear to be very common all round about Ching Fung. A man at Yamakan told my collectors that they shoot these birds at times from huts made of branches, in which the sportsman spends the night and shoots the birds at dawn as they come to pick up the food scattered about to attract them. The shot birds are allowed to remain where they fall, and seven or eight are sometimes obtained in a morning. They also shoot the birds at roost by torchlight.

28. *ARBORICOLA RICKETTI* Grant, Bull. B. O. C. viii. p. xlvii.

I have, in all, obtained eight specimens of this Hill-Partridge from Yamakan and Ah Ch'ung. Of these seven are males; the eighth is not sexed, owing to shot-damage.

My man describes the note as a low "goo, goo, goo." He says they keep on the ground in dense underwood all day, but roost in trees. Previous to flying up to their roosts they are very noisy, uttering their note seven or eight times in succession, with increasing rapidity and in an ascending scale. They appear, from his account, to be far from uncommon. The stomach of one he brought to me contained two small acorns, the stones of some berry, a few small univalves, and remains of insects.

29. *CERIORNIS CABOTI* Gould.

The natives at Yamakan described a bird that they say occurs in the forest, which my collector thinks must be this Tragopan, but as yet no specimen has been obtained. At Kuatun it must be very common, as my men brought me 14 skins last autumn. All but two were females; the exceptions were young males in an interesting transition stage of plumage. One of these is now in the Natural History Museum at South Kensington.

30. *PHIMANTOPUS CANDIDUS* (Bonn.).

La Touche obtained specimens here in 1885-86 (Ibis, 1892, p. 497). We have not procured any since then till last year, when two males were shot in October close to Foochow and a female in the following April a few miles higher up the river. The native "shooting-man" who brought me the first described it as a bird with "very large hands" (!), meaning, of course, long legs.

31. *ANOUS STOLIDUS* (Linn.).

A male in adult plumage was shot on the river near Foochow (about 30 miles from the sea) on 3rd October: a typhoon that we had a couple of days before being, no doubt, the cause of its appearance. The stomach was quite empty.

This bird measured in the flesh:—Length 16·4 inches, wing 10·8, tail 7·0, tarsus 0·9, culmen 1·5.

Foochow,

25th August, 1899.

IV.—*On the Occurrence of Nordmann's Pratincole* (*Glaucola melanoptera*) *in Italy*. By Prof. E. ARRIGONI DEGLI ODDI.

It will be very interesting for your readers to know that *Glaucola melanoptera** has occurred in our country, and that I have been fortunate enough to obtain for my collection a rare and perfectly well-preserved specimen. A few days ago I received from Mr. Marco Gianese, of Lonigo (Vicenza), a large parcel of stuffed birds, this gentleman having decided to sell his collection, composed of birds obtained in the district of Lonigo, which is beautifully situated on the Berici Hills, in the province of Vicenza (Venetian territory). Last year, on two occasions, I bought some other rare birds of Mr. Gianese, among them, I am pleased to mention, many abnormally-coloured specimens, and besides these examples of *Circus cineraceus*, *Sylvia subalpina*, *Potamodus luscinioides*, *Locustella naevia*, *Anthus cervinus*, *A. richardi* (three), *Emberiza leucocephala* (two), *Plectrophanes lapponicus*, *Totanus stagnatilis*, *Anser cinereus*, *Mergus*

* Cf. Sharpe, Cat. B. xxiv. p. 57.